

FILTERED ROUTER ALERT HOP-BY-HOP OPTION

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ABSTRACT

The present invention supports a filtered router flag value in an information packet for packet-based communication networks. The presence of the filtered router flag value identifies the information packet as possibly requiring a slow-path routing technique. The flag value could also identify the router type or conditions that actually require slow-path routing techniques. A router identifying the filtered router flag value will forward the information packet to the signal processor for slow-path processing. A router not finding the filtered router flag value will forward the information packet directly on the appropriate output for transmission onto the network.